

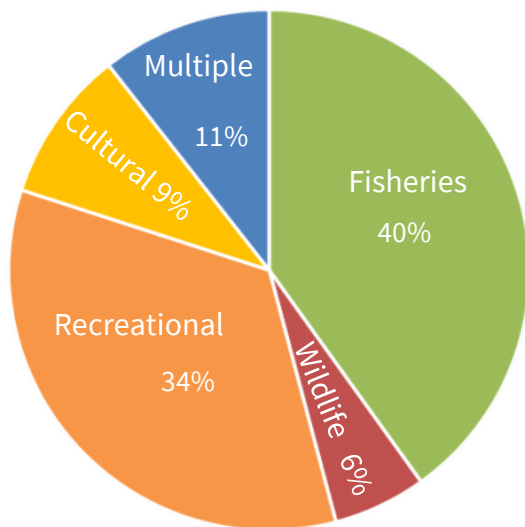


# 2024 Annual Report

## SPEB Grants Making an Impact in the South Platte River Basin

The Grant Program developed and managed by the South Platte Enhancement Board (SPEB) is funded through earnings from the Endowment Fund. The Endowment Fund has been graciously provided by Front Range water providers and local governments. SPEB is accepting grant applications for projects and initiatives that protect or enhance Outstanding Remarkable Values (ORVs) along sections of the South Platte River and its North Fork.

**Now accepting 2025 grant applications up to \$25,000 per project. Applications are due June 11, 2025. For more information, visit [www.southplatte.org](http://www.southplatte.org)**



### SPEB Grant Program

- SPEB has provided funding through their Grant Program for support of many projects to enhance the identified ORVs in the eligible segments of the South Platte Protection Plan (SPPP).
- Since 2007 SPEB has funded **52** grants, totaling **\$1,002,403** to enhance and preserve fisheries, wildlife, recreation, scenic, geological and cultural/historic ORVs.

### 2024 Grant Awards

- **Awarded \$145,000 in 2024**
- Contributed to Lake George Diversion dam removal in the South Platte River, reconnecting 45 miles of river from Eleven Mile Reservoir to Cheesman Reservoir.
- Matched funding for Gill Trail improvement project.
- Funded Forest Service River Ranger Patrol Program.
- Provided match for Pine Grove History Park to the Pine and Elk Creek Improvement Association



**To learn more about SPEB, visit [www.southplatte.org](http://www.southplatte.org)**

# Grant Dollars at Work in the South Platte

## SPEB Eligible River Segments



Baseline study of ORV conditions supporting the South Platte Protection Plan by the Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP), (2014 - 2018).

Funded US Forest Service South Platte River Patrol from Cheesman Reservoir to the confluence. River Patrol provided debris clean up and education, (2020, 2021, 2022).

Five projects on Sugar Creek, Pine Creek, and Horse Creek to study sediment problems and implement innovative solutions, (2009 - 2017).

Preservation Inc. emergency repairs of historic Blue Jay Inn, (2007).

Buffalo Creek Recreation Area non-motorized trails and trail bridge construction and parking lot property acquisition and improvement construction with the Colorado Trailblazers and BPIA, (2008, 2010, 2013, 2015). Construction of a permanent pavilion shelter, (2017). Addition of permanent sanitation facilities, (2021).

Funded construction of four sets of stairs to access the South Platte River near Deckers that will reduce erosion and deposition of sediment caused by uncontrolled river access, (2018).

CUSP Upper Gill Trail restoration, (2021).

Matched funding for the removal of the diversion dam at lower end of Eleven Mile Canyon which would stabilize the river channel and remove a barrier to fish passage into the canyon, (2018, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024).

## Endowment Fund Made Possible by Contributions from:

Arapahoe County Water & Wastewater Authority	Castle Pines North Metro District	City of Aurora	City of Englewood
City of Thornton	Colorado Springs Utilities	Cottonwood Water & Sanitation District East	Cherry Creek Valley Water & Sanitation District
Denver Water	Douglas County	Highlands Ranch Water & Sanitation District	Inverness Water & Sanitation District
Jefferson County	Meridian Metro District	Parker Water & Sanitation District	Pinery Water & Wastewater District
Roxborough Park Metropolitan District	Stonegate Village Metropolitan District	Town of Castle Rock	



# SPEB at a Glance

## Goals of the South Platte Enhancement Board

Maintain and enhance resource values to ensure adequate protections of the stream corridor, and support cooperative and coordinated management of resource values

Monitor and oversee implementation of the SPPP, and provide comments on efforts with potential impacts to the SPPP

Manage SPEB endowment and implement grants which support the SPPP

Balance protection of habitat, ecosystem and human values and uses

Establish and foster a public dialog and community support through outreach and advocacy working across a broad group of stakeholders

Provide leadership to pursue appropriate recreational management opportunities



Lake George diversion dam before removal



Lake George diversion dam after removal



Improvements for Fish Habitat



Forest Service South Platte River Patrol

## History of the South Platte Enhancement Board

Denver Water received a right-of-way in 1931 allowing for the possible construction of a 346,000 acre-foot reservoir on the South Platte named Two Forks Reservoir. By the 1980's, Denver Water and other suburban entities were actively studying its possible construction. In 1984, studies were conducted by the U.S.D.A. Forest Service (USFS) that concluded portions of the South Platte River and its North Fork were eligible for protection under the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (W&SRA); further study was placed on hold as the Two Forks project was evaluated. The Two Forks project was stopped by a veto from the EPA in 1990.

The W&SRA studies resumed, and in 1995 local interests requested that the USFS consider a local alternative to wild and scenic designation. Recognizing the river not only has key environmental values, but also is and will remain the key conduit for delivery of water supplies for the Front Range of Colorado, local partners sought a river protection strategy with greater flexibility for the river's use in water supply.

The USFS encouraged the development of a local alternative that would protect the identified river values as well or better than Wild and Scenic designation. The precedent-setting alternative, known as the South Platte Protection Plan (SPPP), was developed through nine years of negotiation. In June 2004, the USFS issued a Record of Decision that adopted the SPPP with the goal of maintaining, and possibly enhancing, the Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs) identified for the South Platte and North Fork.

The initial meeting of SPEB, as the key overseer of the implementation for the SPPP, took place on October 21, 2004. Since that time, SPEB has held regular meetings, adopted bylaws, collected and managed an endowment fund to support projects benefiting the river, created a grant issuing process, distributed grants for multiple projects and otherwise demonstrated prudent due diligence implementing the SPPP.

The initial Denver Water 20 Year moratorium on a Two Forks dam expired in 2024. Working with SPEB and the Denver Water Task Force, Denver Water agreed to an additional 10 Year Moratorium, extending to 2034.

In 2024, the SPEB undertook a review of our first 20 years under the South Platte Protection Plan. The result is the 20 Year-Anniversary Report summarizing all of our activities. It is available at [www.southplatte.org](http://www.southplatte.org)



## Mission

The mission of **South Platte Enhancement Board (SPEB)** is to implement the **South Platte Protection Plan (SPPP)**, which is focused on maintaining and enhancing the **Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs)** in identified stream segments along the main-stem of the South Platte River from Eleven Mile Canyon to its confluence with the North Fork and the North Fork from Insmont to its confluence with the main-stem.



## South Platte Enhancement Board 2024 Officers and Directors

**Andy Hough**, President, Douglas County

**Dennis Larratt**, Vice President/President Elect, Motorized Recreation Users

**Lisa Walters**, Secretary, Colorado Springs Utilities

**Jim Idema**, Grants Chair, Private Property Owner

**Nathan Elder**, Treasurer, Denver Water

**Kyle Battige**, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Environmental

**Lisa Brown**, Center of Colo. WCD, Park County

**Kristina Duff**, Jefferson County

**Judd Baker**, Lost Valley Ranch, Grazing Industry

**Kyle Hamilton**, Jacobs Engineering, At-Large

**Josh Kuhn**, Conservation Colorado, Environmental

**Nik White**, Water Recreation Users

**Matt Ashley**, Aurora Water, Suburban Water Provider

**Rick McCloud**, Highlands Ranch Water & Sanitation District, Suburban Water Provider

**David Nickum**, Trout Unlimited, Environmental

**Mark Spurgeon**, Non-Motorized Recreation

**Weston Toll**, CSFS, Timber or Silviculture Industry